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REDS LOOK FOR NATIONAL LEAGUE TROPHY



Important Cogs in Wheel of Cincinnati Reds.

The baseball enthusiasts of Cincinnati see visions of a pennant floating before their gaze this season. The team that represents that city on the diamond this year is acknowledged to be about the fastest that Porkopolis has ever seen. Competent judges of baseball ability who have seen the Reds in action during the training trip and in the championship games thus far declare that the speed and power displayed are no mere flash in the pan. Cincinnati fans have waited 33 years for the Reds to win a National league flag. They may be forced to wait still longer, but this looks like the year for the team to desert its old haunts and join the first division clubs.

Garry Herrmann, the president of the Reds, certainly made a tenstrike when he cast aside his prejudices against Federal league players and signed Hal Chase to play first base. The former star of the Yankees and White Sox may be the most temperamental individual in baseball, but he is a great player just the same.

He has tried in the past many a play which failed to go through simply because his teammates failed to grasp the situation as quickly as he. Working with such men as Charley Herzog and Heinie Groh, two of the smartest ball players in the game today, Chase should show at his best. Hal always has been and is today a

dangerous hitter. He is especially expert at hitting behind the runner. With a man on first base, Chase may be depended upon to knock the ball to right field. John J. McGraw, manager of the Giants, declares the ability to perform just that feat the greatest recommendation for any batter.

One of the strongest reasons for the optimism of the Cincinnati fans is the pitching staff of the Reds. There is Fred Toney, who ranked second to Grover Cleveland Alexander last season, allowing an average of 1.57 earned runs to the game, Jean Dale is another clever, resourceful pitcher, who ranked high last year.

Pete Schneider and F. G. McKenry are two young pitchers who are highly praised by ball players. Earl Moseley and Lefty Schulz, who saw service in the American league before they hopped to the Reds, should be of assistance too.

Second base may be the weak spot in the Reds this year. At present Bill Louden is filling the post, and filling it in acceptable fashion, but Bill is a veteran of long standing, and may weaken under hard campaigning. Charley Herzog, at shortstop, needs neither introduction nor defense.

Heinie Groh was the actual leader among the third basemen, and, better than mere mechanical ability, he is an intelligent player.

MAHAN IS A MODEST PLAYER

Makes Characteristic Reply When Congratulated for Winning Game From Red Sox.

This may be one reason why Eddie Mahan and others of his type are great. When the famous Harvard football and diamond star was leaving the work after pitching Harvard to vic-



Eddie Mahan.

tory over the Red Sox in an exhibition game, someone started to praise him. "Oh, that's nothing to swell up over. Carrigan's team wasn't breaking its neck to win," said Mahan.

Chance of Guy Elliott. Guy Elliott of Springfield, a left-handed twirler, will be given a chance to show his worth with the Rock Island club this season.

DIAMOND NOTES

"Mike" Mowrey has become a big favorite with Dodger "fans."

"Hank" Gowdy will play better ball than ever this year, it is thought.

Miller Huggins says he has given up hope of making his pitchers good bunters.

In the National league the Pirates threaten to give the Giants a tussle for last position.

It looks like Larry Lajole will have the "just one more great year" he wants before he quits.

The Indians have made a wonderful record on their home grounds this year in drawing out the fans.

"Bill" Louden, last year with the Buffalo Feds, is the talk of Cincinnati, where he is playing second base.

There must have been a flea in the ointment that John McGraw mixed up for the Giants at the start of the season.

Connie Mack says the Athletics will make 'em step some just as soon as they acquire the habit of using safety razors.

George Stallings overcame the danger of letting the wrong one go when he released the Shannon twins at the same time.

Terry Turner, who was given up for a dead one several years ago, is about the liveliest member of the Indians at present.

If they ever increase the width of the plate about twelve inches, Lundermilk ought to be the greatest pitcher in the world.

"The greatest general of them all" released Jim Thorpe, who since leaving the Giants has been hitting .667 for Milwaukee.

EASIER FOR UMPIRES

FANS DO NOT RIDE THEM, AS IN DARK AGES OF BASEBALL.

Attacking Arbiters Verbally and Sometimes Physically on Every Close Decision Was Deemed Prerogative of Players.

The senseless pastime of umpire baiting is becoming a relic of the dark ages of baseball.

In former years attacking the umpire verbally, and sometimes physically, on every close decision was considered the prerogative of managers and players, while many scribes alibied for their defeats by blaming the poor judge of play.

That time passed long ago and intelligent players today realize that nothing is gained and much may be lost by getting into rows with the umpire, who is in full charge of the game on the field and is as essential to the pastime as the players themselves. Any fair man who knows the big league umpires will have to acknowledge that they are a fair-minded and conscientious set of men, anxious to do their duty to the best of their ability, playing no favorites and giving each decision as it comes up exactly as they see it.

Umpires, as a rule, are much fairer than ball players. The latter will try to work every small advantage, will resent the slightest criticism of their work, no matter how well-founded it may be, and will alibi for themselves and one another in the boldest manner.

Umpires, on the other hand, are, as a rule, very fair and willing to admit making a mistake. Their position is a difficult one. The umpire behind the plate, calling balls and strikes, as well as making all decisions at the plate and sometimes at third base, is called upon to render as many as 150 decisions in the course of a single game. The big majority of these he gives accurately. In proportion to the number of chances he has, his mistakes are much fewer than those of the ball players, who miss 5 or 10 per cent of their chances in the field and make errors of judgment at the bat.

MEYERS TO FOOL WISE ONES

Big Chief Says He Will Give Lie to Those Who Have Been Predicting That He Was Through.

Chief Meyers, the former Giant backstop who is now with the Brooklyn Dodgers, declares he will fool all the wise ones who have been singing his requiem. The chief says he will play



Chief Meyers.

a game this year that will give the lie to those who have been mourning that his baseball sun has set. The big Indian never looked better and has shown up well this spring.

Two Records Broken. Two records already have been broken in the American league. The St. Louis Browns have won a game in Chicago and the Washington team has won a game in Boston. Neither team was able to cop a contest on the grounds of the opposition named last season.

Hans Lobert Is Through. Sentiment among his team mates is that "Hans" Lobert will be unable to get his injured knee in shape again and that he probably has played his last game with the Giants.

SNIPER'S BULLET GRAVEST PERIL TO THE SOLDIER

Concealed Marksmen Deal Death With Consistency, Rarely Missing Victim.

DISGUISE BAFFLES ENEMY

Remarkable Ingenuity Displayed in Methods of Concealment Adopted—A Second's Pause in an Exposed Section of the Line Spells Death to the Soldier.

London.—While the charge, the bursting of shells and the hand-to-hand combats make up to a great extent the picture of war, one of the gravest dangers which the soldiers face in the field is the bullet of the sniper. They are the clever marksmen who select some position where they are almost invisible to their opponents and send a well-directed bullet at each target which is exposed for a fraction of a minute.

Remarkable as examples of the ingenuity of these snipers are some of the stories of their methods of disguise which are related by the soldiers who return from the trenches. A number of such stories were recently compiled by an English newspaper and give an insight into this method of warfare—an art which has been raised so high that a moment's forgetfulness, a second's pause in an exposed section of the line spells death to the soldier.

"A Tommy, recently returned home, tells an extraordinary story of the ingenuity and death of a German sniper," says the newspaper. "This particular sniper was encountered on Hill Seventy. When dawn broke the soldier was chilled to the bone and weakened with loss of blood, as he had been wounded the night before. Unable to move, he lay flat on his back and tried to get some sleep. The rest and the warmth of the sun revived the soldier and he raised up his head. Another wounded soldier started to walk back to the trenches. A moment later he pitched forward, shot through the temple by a sniper.

Grass Arouses Suspicion. "Five minutes later another man moved. He started to get to his feet, but seemed startled by something and lay down again quickly. The other wounded man followed his example. A moment later he saw the grass, about twenty yards away, move in a peculiar manner. Instead of moving sideways as it would from a body passing through it, the grass itself appeared to be coming forward.

"For a minute the movement of the grass stopped and then it began again, this time coming toward the wounded soldier. Suspicion was now aroused to such an extent that the soldier finally took aim at the moving tuft of grass and fired three volleys in rapid succession. Crawling over to the spot where the mound of grass had suddenly stopped twitching, he found a dead German sniper. Real sods of grass had been bound by cords to a waterproof sheet, which had been strapped to the sniper's back, making a perfect disguise for him."

Continuing its anecdotes of the snipers, the newspaper quotes from a long letter written by a soldier, in which he explains the dangers presented to the men by the snipers.

"Along one stretch of front," he says, "we were much puzzled by the angle at which the sniper's bullets were coming over. On the left was a line of leafless pollard willows, but we could see that there was nobody behind the trunks.

URGES GIRLS TO PREPARE

Scottish Nurse Who Served on European Battlefields Tells of Work of Nurses.

New York.—Miss Kathleen Burke, who has served on several of the European battlefronts, addressed a gathering of young women of the Vacation association in New York, and dwelt upon the part that women play in the alleviation of suffering and the horror of the war now going on.

Miss Burke is honorary secretary of the Scottish Women's hospital, and told of the work being done in Belgium, Serbia and France by the five units of the hospital corps. A sixth unit, to be known as the American unit, because money from this country paid for the equipment, is about to go out within a few weeks. Miss Burke has been decorated by three countries. She has seen service on several battle lines, and only recently returned from the island of Corsica, where she had helped in the work of attending 6,000 refugees. In Serbia her unit battled with typhus. They

"Several of our officers tried to find a solution, but all to no purpose. At last Captain X—, who happened to be familiar with the ways of old willows, took charge and ordered three men to fire a few shots at each willow. The sniping ceased. Two of the willows were hollow and the Germans had crept inside the trees and were firing through cracks in the stem with automatic revolvers. For two days there was no more sniping, but on the third the fire was resumed as briskly as before and with just as deadly an effect. Fire was opened again on the willows, but this time there was no result.

Steel Plate in Hollow Tree. "Captain X— was just as suspicious as ever, and he instructed the nearest battery to make short work of the willows. This was done, and the third to go revealed the enemy's cunning. Inside the willow we found not only a German but a steel plate which fitted outside him and inside the willow, making a proof against rifle bullets.

"While that was a clever trick it was little better than the work done with the old door. At one spot where our trenches were not more than 100 yards apart an old door was lying. The top glass panels of it were broken, the wood beneath them was broken and over the woodwork a gaudy paper had been pasted. Its only use was as a test for our sights, which we got by hitting the door knob or breaking off a splinter of glass.

"One day, however, we were surprised to find that when a bullet struck the glass it left a white streak and brought no tinkle. Hitting the woodwork had the same effect; it brought a white smear, but no splinters. We knew something was wrong and that night decided to investigate. We discovered that the old door had been removed and a steel shield put in its place. It was painted to look like the wood, paper and broken glass, with a hole near the knob for the sniper's rifle.

"We fixed a surprise for the artist. He evidently thought he was going to have things his own way. The next day when he began his work we were ready for him. Our trick certainly was a match for his. We did our act, for we sent both the artist and his picture flying back into the German trenches, and the picture was the more intact of the two. A well-placed bomb accounted for him.

"We caught another sniper in a curious manner a few months ago. Our regiment was stationed about eight hundred yards from the German trench and, like all others, we suffered much for want of water. Half a mile in the rear ran a small stream and the men used to steal out at night for water. These men were constantly being sniped.

"A number of our men had been killed or wounded in this manner and it was agreed that the sniping came from somewhere behind our lines. A close day's search revealed nothing. The C. O. was getting savage and his attitude obviously demanded that he must do something special for the benefit of the undiscovered sniper.

"Early one morning the command came that we were to make a great circle and heat inward, not leaving a bit of ground uncovered. Nothing came of it—that is to say, nothing except a shapeless old French farmer whom we found driving his riding plow for potatoes. When we questioned him he flew into a rage because we were trampling his beloved ground and demanded that we clear off at once as there was no 'espion' around.

"We had to do so. In making his report to our chief the subaltern remarked reflectively as he told of how the farmer gnashed his teeth at us, 'Jolly fine teeth, and clean, too.'

"What?" snapped the frate C. O. "Mr. X—, you will take a couple of men and go to the old farmer. Engage him in conversation while your men pin him from behind suddenly. I don't want to lose men capturing a dangerous sniper with clean teeth."

ALLIES DIVIDED ON WEIGHTS

French Urge Adoption of Metric System of Measurement by Great Britain.

Paris.—The scientific editor of the Temps doubts whether any permanent friendship between France and England is possible as long as England sticks to her obsolete system of weights and measures.

"All the things that England and France are agreed on," says the editor, "such as the interchange of languages and the building of the channel tunnel, are as nothing compared with the absolute necessity for France to induce England to adopt the metric system."

"Think how difficult it will be for the Frenchman to thread his way through the mazes of British weights and measures when, after the war, he turns to British trade and industry to furnish him with the greater part of what he needs to restore and rebuild his shattered factories and work shops."

"This was a sharp blow at the sun, altern, but it was precisely as our chief suggested. The old farmer fought like a tiger, and the three men were rolling over and over on the ground before he could be safely tied. He was a powerful young man and a search revealed a belt of cartridges and two automatic pistols of German make. Later in the day we found a little dugout in a ditch with a rifle hidden away in a screen of bushwood. There is only one end for men of this kind and he got it.

Everybody's Doing It. "Don't think that the sniping is confined to one side. We have some men who are very clever, particularly the Canadian chaps. One such is a full-blooded Indian in the Canadian infantry, who is a marvel with his rifle. He has a telescopic sight attached to his rifle and goes about as he likes. He is a most silent man, talking to few persons. He wanders about the trenches and waits for a chance to pick off a German.

"One German sniper recently was giving a lot of trouble. Officers with glasses tried in vain to locate him. The Indian came along and without saying a word to anyone fired at a big tree. Down dropped the sniper. The Indian saw with his naked eye what the officers with their glasses failed to discover. He puts a little nick in the stock of his rifle every time he is sure he has killed a German. I saw him add two more nicks to the thirty-eight already on his stock."

QUEEN INSPECTS GUARD



Queen Wilhelmina of Holland inspecting a frontier guard. The queen has been very active of late, going about the country inspecting and reviewing various divisions of the army. Recently the queen paid a visit to the Belgian frontier and made an inspection of the garrisons there.

U. S. ADS FOR ARGENTINA

American to Erect Large Signs in Buenos Ayres—Largest Display Field in World.

Buenos Ayres.—An American advertising man has begun the erection in this city of what is said to be one of the largest display fields in the world and most certainly the largest in South America. The field is a mile long, extending from the railroad terminal stations to Palermo and paralleling the tracks of the three big lines—the Central Argentine, the Pacific and the Central Cordoba.

Along the mile field will be erected huge signs on steel, cut in the design of the article advertised. None will be less than 100 square feet nor more than 500 square feet. Owing to their size and to guard against destruction they will be built with heavy steel supporters, set in concrete.

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